

REMARKS

Claims 23 to 36 are pending and under examination. Claims 23, 25, 26, and 27 have been amended and are now in condition for allowance. Support for amendments to Claim 23 is found throughout the specification, and more specifically on page 2 at lines 26-27 (last paragraph), on page 4 at lines 13-19, and on page 8 at lines 1-2. Support for amendments to Claim 25 is found on page 3 at lines 9-15. Support for amendments to Claim 26 is found on page 3 at line 21. Claim 27 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter.

CONCLUSION

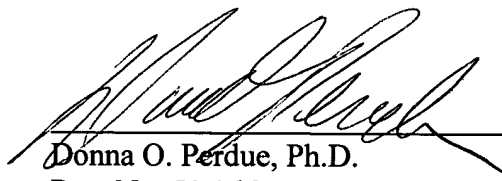
For the reasons set forth herein, Applicants maintain that the amended claims clearly and patentably define the invention, and respectfully request allowance of the claims now pending.

If the Examiner would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this Amendment, Applicant's representative can be reached at (858) 509-4093.

Because this Amendment is being submitted as part of a Request for Continued Examination filed within two months of filing a Notice of Appeal on May 2, 2003, Applicants believe that no fees for extensions of time are due. If any fees are due, please charge any additional fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 03-3975.

Respectfully submitted,

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